observation on the weather pattern, atmospheric pressure, surface ozone and global solar radiation at Maitri; continuous recording of VLF propagation data by digital audio recorder PCM-R300 and geological mapping in the Muhlig-Hoffmannfjell area which revealed charnockite. The snow grain identification studies indicated predominantly sugary grains at Veteiah, Shivling and Russian Aerodrome site.

Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme

5512. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States of America has agreed to continue with the Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme for another five years;

(b) if so, whether it has been decided that more emphasis would be given for development of Malaria, TB, HIV and Typhoid vaccines;

(c) whether this decision was taken during the two-day meeting of the Indo-US Science Forum which was held on 19th March, 2002; and

(d) if so, what are the other decisions taken in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) In principle, it has been agreed at the level of Joint Working Group (JWG) of the Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme (VAP) to extend the programme for a further period of five years. Procedural formalities are being completed. The US side has conveyed its agreement.

(b) A Strategic Plan Document prepared by the experts has given emphasis on the development of vaccines for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Governing Body meeting of Indo-US S&T Forum held in March, 2002 discussed issues pertaining to administrative and scientific matters like holding of Joint workshops, Forum Frontier Fellows Programme, Invited Lectures and Creation of Databases.